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Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2002

General Assembly
Official Records
Fifty-seventh Session
Supplement No. 42 (A/57/42)

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Note

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission", which reads:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Having considered* the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

"*Recalling* its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999 and 55/35 C of 20 November 2000,

"*Considering* the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

"*Bearing in mind* its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;

"2. *Reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

"3. *Also reaffirms* the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

"4. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted 'Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission';[3]

"5. *Notes* that the Disarmament Commission, at its 2001 organizational session, adopted the following items for consideration at its 2002 substantive session:

(a) Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms;

"6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2002 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

"8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

"9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled 'Report of the Disarmament Commission'."

2. The Disarmament Commission met at United Nations Headquarters and held two organizational meetings, on 2 November 2001 (A/CN.10/PV.248) and 10 April 2002 (A/CN.10/PV.249). The Commission considered questions related to the organization of work and substantive agenda items for its 2002 substantive session in accordance with the adopted

"Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission" (A/CN.10/137) and in the light of General Assembly resolution 55/35 C.

Chapter II
Organization and work of the 2002 session

3. The Commission held its first organizational meeting (248th meeting) on 2 November 2001, during which it took up the question of the election of its officers, taking into account the principle of rotating the chairmanship among the geographic regions. The Commission decided to establish a Committee of the Whole and two working groups to deal with the two substantive items on the agenda.

4. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the 2002 substantive session, contained in document A/CN.10/L.51, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament.
5. Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms.
6. Report of the Disarmament Commission to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.
7. Other business.

5. The Commission also took note of its provisional programme of work for the session (A/CN.10/2002/CRP.1), in which four meetings were allocated to a general exchange of views.

6. The Commission further decided to request the Chairman to undertake, with the assistance of the Bureau, informal consultations as to the dates of its 2002 substantive session.

7. The Disarmament Commission, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Mario E. Maiolini (Italy), held its second organizational meeting (249th meeting) on 10 April 2002, which was resumed on 17 April. Timur Alasaniya, Senior Political Affairs Officer of the Disarmament and Decolonization Organs Servicing Branch of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, served as the Secretary of the Commission.

8. During the meeting, the Bureau of the Commission was constituted as follows:

Chairman:
Ambassador Mario E. Maiolini (Italy)

Vice-Chairmen:
Representatives of Belarus, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan and Nepal

Rapporteur:
Mehiedine El Kadiri (Morocco)

9. At the same meeting, the Commission, due to extraordinary circumstances, decided to continue its consideration of two agenda items at its next substantive session, in 2003. It was also understood that that did not constitute or create any precedent whatsoever.

10. The Commission also decided to hold its 2003 substantive session between 31 March and 17 April 2003, and in that context requested the Bureau to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a draft resolution proposing those dates.

11. In view of the decision taken on the 2002 substantive session, the Disarmament Commission, in accordance with the practice of rotating the chairmanship of the Commission and taking into consideration existing precedents of the Organization, reconfirmed the officers of the Bureau who had been elected for the 2002 session and decided to ask them to remain in office for the 2003 substantive session.

12. The Commission also requested the chairpersons of the two working groups, Yaw Odei Osei (Ghana) and Gabriela Martinic (Argentina), to continue to conduct intersessional consultations based on the discussions, suggestions and oral and written proposals and materials submitted during the previous two years of deliberations, and, if possible, to submit revised versions of their papers some time prior to the 2003 substantive session of the Commission.

Chapter III
Documentation

A. Documents submitted by the Secretary-General

13. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/26 A, the Secretary-General, by a note dated 21 March 2002 (A/CN.10/200), transmitted to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly relating to disarmament matters.

B. Other documents, including those submitted by Member States

14. In the course of the organizational meetings, it was understood that the further consideration of two agenda items during the 2003 substantive session of the Commission would make full use of the documents dealing with substantive questions that had been submitted during the previous two sessions. Those documents are listed below:

(a) A Chairman's paper entitled "Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament", was submitted to Working Group I (A/CN.10/2000/WG.I/WP.1);

(b) A working paper entitled "Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament" was submitted by China (A/CN.10/2000/WG.I/WP.2);

(c) A working paper entitled "Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament" was submitted by France on behalf of the European Union, as well as Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey (A/CN.10/2000/WG.I/WP.3);

(d) A working paper entitled "Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament" was submitted by the United States of America (A/CN.10/2000/WG.I/WP.4);

(e) A working paper entitled "Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament" was submitted by Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine (A/CN.10/2000/WG.I/WP.5);

(f) A working paper entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms" was submitted by China (A/CN.10/2000/WG.II/WP.2);

(g) A working paper entitled "Destruction of surplus, confiscated or collected weapons as a practical confidence-building measure in the field of conventional arms" was submitted by South Africa (A/CN.10/2000/WG.II/WP.3);

(h) A working paper entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms" was submitted by Switzerland (A/CN.10/2000/WG.II/WP.4);

(i) A non-paper entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms: current efforts reappraised" was submitted by Japan (A/CN.10/2000/WG.II/WP.5 and Corr.1);

(j) Two non-papers entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons" (A/CN.10/2000/WG.II/WP.6 and Corr.1) and "Practical confidence-building measures in conventional arms" (A/CN.10/2000/WG.II/WP.7 and Corr.1), were submitted by Portugal and France respectively on behalf of the European Union and associated countries;

(k) Two Chairman's papers entitled "Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament" were submitted to Working Group I (A/CN.10/2001/WG.I/WP.1 and WP.4);

(l) A working paper was submitted by Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (A/CN.10/2002/WG.I/WP.2);

(m) A working paper was submitted by India (A/CN.10/2001/WG.I/WP.3);

(n) A working paper entitled "Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament: comments and proposals concerning 'Chairman's comments on proposed structure (A/CN.10/2001/WG.I/WP.1)'" was submitted by Sweden on behalf of the European Union, with the associated countries aligning themselves (A/CN.10/2001/WG.I/WP.5);

(o) A working paper entitled "Ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament" was submitted by Nepal (A/CN.10/2001/WG.I/WP.6);

(p) Two working papers entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms" were submitted by Sweden on behalf of the European Union, with the associated countries aligning themselves (A/CN.10/2001/WG.II/WP.1 and WP.2);

(q) A working paper entitled "Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms" was submitted by Nepal (A/CN.10/2001/WG.II/WP.3);

(r) Three conference room papers were also submitted under item 4.

Chapter IV
Conclusions and recommendations

15. At its resumed 249th meeting, on 17 April, the Disarmament Commission adopted, as a whole, its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/56/42).

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/56/27).

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